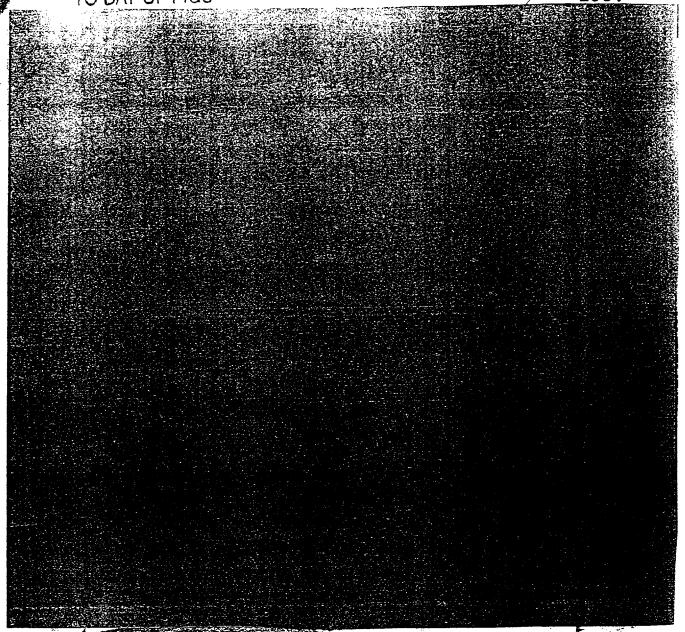
NOT RELEVANT TO BAY OF PIGS RELEASE AS SANITIZED

1997



2. Cuban Arms Purchases: Expanding economic and political ties between Cuba and the UAR may facilitate the Castro government's efforts to obtain military aircraft and increase its already substantial purchases of arms and ammunition.

that it could accept 30 Cuban students, or

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up to 50 if Havana insisted, at its aviation college on l September. also stated that at least 23 British-made jet fighters as well as numerous lighter planes were available for sale at world market prices. Bombs and ammunition for each type were also available.

A recent \$6,000,000 barter transaction between the two countries may be used to cover purchase of Czech arms and ammunition. A source of the US army attaché in Cairo reports that a Cuban arms technician arrived there from Prague on 8 February to make final arrangements on a three-way trade. Under its reported terms, a large part of the Egyptian cotton bartered for Cuban sugar would be sent to Czechoslovakia in payment for arms to be delivered by the Czechs to Castro.

Other widely varying reports continue to be received that Havana is attempting to buy Czech planes, tanks, and arms.

NOT RELEVANT TO BAY OF PIGS

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